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14

PET 15-2 LIBYA

417

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44 42
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 INRE-00 AID-10 E-03 L-02 COM-03 PM-03 OEP-01
RSR-01 RSC-01 NEA-06 /074 W

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O P 201505Z JAN 72
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 733
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

BENGHAZI 29
1/20/72
LIBYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 0029

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF BP

REF: BENGHAZI 0025

Classification Extended By:
C.E. McManaway
A/CDC 8/11/1980
P800117-1414
RDS-3 1/20/84

FROM MACK:

1. TOGETHER WITH LIBYAN DESK OFFICER CLARK, I CALLED ON [redacted] ON JANUARY 20. [redacted] THAT WITHDRAWAL OF HUNT PERSONNEL FROM SARIR AND TOBRUK WAS NOT ACTUALLY CONTRARY TO HUNT'S NEGOTIATING STRATEGY. IN FACT, AND [redacted] RELUCTANT TO BE SPECIFIC, IT APPEARS THAT HUNT MANEUVERED ARAB GULF INTO STATING THAT WITH ARRIVAL OTS TECHNICIANS IT COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT HUNT PERSONNEL. HUNT THEN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF WHAT IT CONSIDERED ARAB GULF OVERCONFIDENCE AND WITHDREW ITS PERSONNEL TO BENGHAZI. HUNT CLEARLY HOPES THAT DURING THE COMING DAYS ARAB GULF WILL LEARN THE HARD WAY HOW MUCH IT NEEDS EXPERTISE WHICH HUNT CAN PROVIDE. B1 B1

2. [redacted] STILL IN TRIPOLI WITH SHTAYWI OF NOC. HOWEVER, RCC HAS EXTENDED ITS STAY IN BENGHAZI INTO A SECOND WEEK. BOTH ECONMIN JALLUD AND PETMIN MABRUK HAVE BEEN MEETING AT ARAB GULF HEADQUARTERS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ARAB GULF/HUNT AGREEMENT B1

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MAY BE AMONG SUBJECTS OF RCC DELIBERATION.

3. MEANWHILE, HUNT CONTINUES TO LIFT CRUDE AT TOBRUK. B1
[redacted] WHEREAS HUNT WAS WILLING TO APPLY PRESSURE VIA WITHDRAWL OF PERSONNEL IT CONSIDERED THAT COMPANY'S INTEREST IS TO CONTINUE OFFERING MARKETING FACILITIES.

4. ACCORDING TO BOTH HUNT PERSONNEL [redacted] B1
OTS PERSONNEL ARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING MAINTENANCE SERVICES ONLY. THEY CANNOT FOR LONG PRODUCE FIELD WITHOUT HELP. SECOND COMPANY, FLOPETROL (BRITISH) IS REPORTEDLY SENDING STAFF FOR INSTRUMENTATION, BUT LARGE GAPS WILL REMAIN.

5. COMMENT: [redacted] B1

PALMER

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